

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 131

By Turner L

A RESOLUTION to urge the expansion of early childhood education programs in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly takes notice of the fact that nationally recognized studies conducted over the last 20 years show that adults born in poverty who attended high-quality, active-learning preschools had fewer criminal arrests, higher earnings, and more property wealth than those adults who had no such preschool experience; and

WHEREAS, too many children in the State of Tennessee enter kindergarten without the benefits available from a quality preschool education, which is especially true for children from low-income families; and

WHEREAS, supporting and expanding early childhood education opportunities is an expensive proposition for local government, given the resources available to local government, and is unlikely to come to fruition without the support of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the success of the children of the State of Tennessee, and hence the economy of the state and the total welfare of its people, that the State of Tennessee make available adequate funding to support and expand the availability of early childhood education opportunities; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly expresses its unwavering support for an increase in funding for the expansion of the early childhood education program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge and encourage the Governor to include such an earmarked appropriation within the administration's general appropriations act for fiscal year 2005-2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of Tennessee, and to the Commissioners of the Department of Finance and Administration, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Education.